



**Veterans Memorial  
Park**

**BACKGROUND**

Coon Valley, a village of 765 residents located in the scenic, driftless area of Southwestern Wisconsin, is one of many smaller communities throughout Wisconsin that have frequently used the BCPL State Trust Fund Loan Program to fund local projects. Whether the project is large or small, Coon Valley understands the value added through the excellent customer service provided by BCPL, the simplicity of our borrowing process, and competitive pricing.

**PROJECTS**

Coon Valley has borrowed money for projects including improvements to the village offices and parks, street and utility construction, the development of tax increment districts, and purchases that have ranged from computer

hardware and software to a backhoe. Since the year 2000, the BCPL has funded 13 separate loans to Coon Valley totaling almost \$1.4 million. While an average loan amount of \$100,000 may be considered small by some bankers, all of these projects were important to both Coon Valley and the BCPL. We strive to provide the same level of service to a community borrowing \$15,000 for a used truck cab or \$15 million to renovate the downtown business district. That's just the way we do things at the BCPL.

**IMPACT**

Our simple loan process makes it easy for municipal and school district officials to complete the transaction themselves. This helps many communities reduce the costs of borrowing by eliminating fees charged by

**Coon Valley  
roads and other  
infrastructure  
funded through  
the BCPL State  
Trust Fund Loan  
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financial advisors, lenders, underwriters, rating agencies, and bond counsel. And while these additional costs should be considered in every borrowing decision, the impact of fees on the effective interest rate for a smaller loan can be eye-opening.

The flexibility to prepay a loan without penalty is also a valuable tool for many municipalities and school districts. Budgets are not static, and forecasting budgetary priorities years in advance can be a difficult proposition. Both bonds and bank loans will often lock in borrowers for many years through call dates and prohibitive prepayment penalties. These terms are in stark contrast to the borrower's ability to prepay BCPL State Trust Fund Loans without penalty. Have you ever wished you could pay off an outstanding bond before the call date? This is never a concern if you borrow from BCPL.

Coon Valley understands that one major benefit of working with BCPL is that the

money is borrowed from the Common School Fund, a trust fund created in the Wisconsin Constitution for the benefit of public schools and public school libraries. The interest paid by Coon Valley on Trust Fund loans is included in Common School Fund earnings that are distributed each year to fund public school library materials. Over the period of 2000-2012, BCPL distributed a total of \$574,958 to the Westby Area School District, which includes the village of Coon Valley. This distribution has the effect of reducing local property taxes by providing another source of revenue for school funding.

A simple lending process, competitive pricing, no fees, easy prepayment, great customer service, and the interest paid is reinvested in school libraries statewide—just some of the reasons that many communities consider BCPL to be their lender of choice. ■

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*Visit [bcpl.wisconsin.gov](http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov) for more information about the Loan Program.*